the Group 'A' Non-Medical Scientists working under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Directorate General of Health Services/Institutions.

(b) to (e) The various Councils under the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISH&M) have been asked to extend the benefit of in-situ promotion to Group 'A' Non-Medical Scientists/ Technical Officers working in the various Councils of ISM&H after obtaining the approval of their respective Governing Bodies. This process is under implementation.

Assurance given on Uniform Civil Code

1703. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) would the Prime Minister confirm the Statement attributed to him in a section of the press that during a meeting with Muslim leaders delegation, he assured the delegation that Government would not formulate a Uniform Civil Code despite positive directive given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to Government in its judgement to do so; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) In its judgement dated 10th May, 1995, in Smt. Sarla Mudgal and others versus Union of India and others, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India requested the Government of India to have a fresh look at article 44 of the Constitution of India and endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India. It has been the consistent policy of the Government not to interfere in the personal laws of any community until the initiative therefor comes from the community concerned. In view of this, the Government's stand, not to bring in any legislation on Uniform Civil Code, has been stated.

Strength of Indian Navy

1704. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of war ships in Indian navy at present and what will be the position of Aircraft carriers in the Navy upto the year 2000;

(b) what is the number of ships inducted in the Indian Navy since the year 1988;

(c) whether any proposal for modernisation of Indian Navy is pending for consideration with the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps Government are contemplating to take to match the strong naval forces of China and Pakistan and to protect the marine trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The present strength of warships in the Navy is 134 including the submarines and two Aircraft carriers of which one Aircraft carrier would be decommissioned by the year 2000.

(b) 37 ships and submarines have been commissioned in the Navy since 1988.

(c) and (d) Modernisation of the Navy is a continuing process. Special modernisation is also taken up based on specific requirements.

(e) All developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant observation by Government and appropriate counter-measures are initiated from time to time, to maintain defence preparedness.